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Explosive Release

WASHINGTON — A seemingly routine release of a thin publication by a congressional committee has been followed by tempestuous reverberations beneath the volcanic surface of the intelligence community in the national capital.

By virtual tacit agreement, practically as binding as any law, the information and testimonies collected by the Central Intelligence Agency have been secret from all, except for such rarified agencies as the National Security Council and the top executive offices, and then only a selected portion of the data.

Laszlo Szabo:

What sensational stories could become public property, guiding attitudes decisively, if the CIA material could be made available, when not of a security nature?

A beginning has now been made. Quietly, the Special Armed Services Subcommittee on Central Intelligence Agency of the House has just released a 20-page publication entitled "Statement of Laszlo Szabo."

Szabo was passed along to the Congressional Subcommittee by the CIA, which had been questioning him intensively. He had served for 20 years in the Hungarian Secret Service, and was able to relate from his first-hand knowledge how it operates under the

control of Soviet Russia's KGB. This is vital, heady information at a time when the State Department has used all its influence to eliminate reference to the other Soviet bloc countries as "satellites" of the USSR, and is basing America's policy and hence our survival on the line that there no longer exists a monolithic Red control, but that Moscow is "mellowing," and other East European Communist nations are "mellowing" even more.

Yet as Szabo made clear, "When something has been decided at the chief's level with the Soviets, the other (intelligence) services must stay strictly in line."

This is merely a hint of the tremendously important guidance that can be provided the American voting public if the undocetored, raw material produced by such first-hand witnesses as Szabo were published, instead of being buried in files as has been the case hitherto.

Clandestine

Never before has the CIA subcommittee or other Congressional body dealing with this clandestine organization released an informational publication concerning CIA material.

Yet in a free society, if the public is to be an informed and not be an indoctrinated part of the policy-making apparatus, this is exactly the kind of information that must be made

available to it, without being processed first by the State Department or any other Administration agency intent on putting across its version on how the American people should think and react.

Szabo also related Communist methods of penetration. He had first-hand knowledge of some of the more dramatic aspects of Red intelligence operations which include the use of murder, forgeries and the recruitment of Western diplomats as Red agents, by exploiting their vulnerabilities in character.

Red Mechanism

Of special importance in the Hungarian defector's testimony was the stress which the Communists place on creating a propaganda climate favorable to their aims. Szabo told how he was assigned by Pal Hadju, chief of the Evaluation and Assessment Department of the Hungarian Intelligence Service, to submit suggestions designed "to undermine the relations between the United States and other Western countries — economically or otherwise."

In psychological warfare this is the familiar wedge-driving or splitting tactic. The Communists specialize in this. Surely, the erosion of the NATO alliance system and the animosities between France and the United States have all been abetted by this professional Red mechanism.